



LOHA


CATO Research Symposium  
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# Writing Better Grant / Fellowship Applications

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# Introduction

Start early - allow yourself 6 months

What do you think reviewers and funders want to see?

Key areas to focus on?



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A large number of people each asking for £400k for their favourite subject.....

- ◆ What do you want to know about the project?
- ◆ What do you want to know about the person leading it and their team?
- ◆ What do you want to know about the research outcomes?

What are the things you would want to know before giving them the money?

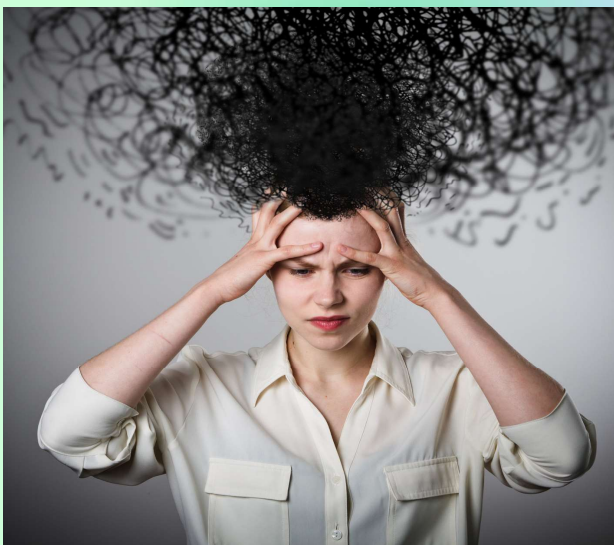


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**Einstein said: "If I have an hour to solve a problem, I spend 55 minutes exploring the problem and five minutes thinking about the solution"**



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## Understanding the problem

Get clear in your own mind

What's the problem you are solving?

Who is affected and the numbers involved?

Why is it important to solve this problem now?

What is already known about the problem and how is it currently tackled?

What is the solution you are exploring?

What is underpinning it?

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# Who can help you?



CATO Team

Research Design Service

Patients and Public

Research Funders

Supervisors / Mentors

Peers

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## Question Tips



- ◆ Be clear on stating your research question or hypothesis.
- ◆ A research question and a research aim are not the same thing.
- ◆ A research question should be precise and there might be follow up questions too.
- ◆ State your: Question  
Overall aim of the research.  
The objectives you will achieve.

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## Methods Tips

Explain and justify your methods

Theory underpinning the work?

State the aim and objectives of each phase of work

Ensure your methodology is appropriate for the work you are doing

Is there a health economic argument for your research?

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## Results

Data analysis plan

Have you got the right expertise on the team for the data analysis?

Do you need clinical trials input?  
Ask early

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## You and your team



Demonstrate why you are the right person to lead this research

Think about the development you will need to ensure its success.

Have you the write team members in place to support you and deliver on the project.

Get people who really can deliver with and for you and the project

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Several other areas to think about....

- ◆ Does the project offer value for money? Ensure finance adds up
- ◆ Ethical review plans?
- ◆ Are you following relevant guidelines for good governance?

Ethics, Finance and Governance



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Thank you and over to you

Useful reference on writing research proposals:  
Aldridge & Derrington (2012) The research Funding Toolkit: SAGE Publications,  
London